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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Saddam's Stepbrother Apprehended - Sabah
80 Women Lawmakers Enter Iraqi Parliament - Sabah
Newsweek Warns of Civil War in Iraq If Peshmerge Remain - Aksam
Newsweek: Fundamentalists Kill Well-Educated Women in Iraq - Hurriyet
Gen. Myers Thinks Iraq Resistance May Go On For Two More Years - Hurriyet 2/27
Gen. Bell Due in Ankara for Military Dialogue - Sabah 2/26
Israel Warns of Strike Against Syria - Milliyet
Israel Suspends Withdrawal From West Bank - Sabah 2/27
Rice Cancels Egypt Visit, Mubarak Calls For Reform - Hurriyet 2/27
Papadopoulos Confident Turkey Will Recognize Nicosia - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Caferi Vows Not to Allow PKK Activities in Iraq - Zaman
Britain Apologizes to Iraq For Torturing Civilians - Cumhuriyet 2/27
Russia to Give Iran Nuclear Fuel - Zaman
Iran Signs Nuclear Fuel Agreement With Russia - Yeni Safak
Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Tel-Aviv Attack - Zaman 2/27
Israel Warns of Attack Against Syria - Cumhuriyet
Israel, Palestine Jointly Investigate Tel-Aviv Suicide Attack - Milliyet 2/27
Bill Clinton: Hillary Would Make a Great President - Radikal
Syria Arrests Saddam's Brother - Cumhuriyet
American Pressure Brings Reform in Egypt - Milliyet 2/27
Greek Cypriots Won't Concede Even if Annan Plan is Changed - Radikal

BRIEFING

ITF Accuses US Soldiers of Attack Against Turkmen Party Office: Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) official Mehmet Tahir told Turkey's official Anatolian News Agency (AA) Sunday that US troops raided the offices of the ITF in Mosul on February 15, breaking windows and doors and disarming ITF security personnel. The ITF further claims that US troops put on ITF security uniforms, climbed to the roof of the building, and began firing at random in an effort to blacken the reputation of the ITF. There were no injuries during the raid. Tahir said he had tried in vain to talk with US officials in Mosul about the incident.

Turkey Removes Objection to Federal Structure in Iraq: A high-level Turkish delegation made up of Foreign Ministry, Turkish intelligence (MIT) and TGS officials conveyed Ankara's friendly intentions to the Iraqi Kurds early last week and is looking for ways to cooperate in the region, Sunday's "Zaman" reports. Ankara's concerns have not been fully eliminated, but the Turkish delegation approved the idea of Iraqi 'federalism,' saying that if the majority of Iraqis want federalism, then Turkey will not object. The delegation also urged the Kurds to refrain from 'sudden moves' with regard to Kirkuk, "Zaman" writes.

Minister Tuzmen Says A Second Gate Needed With Iraq: State Minister Kursad Tuzmen called for the opening of a second border crossing between Turkey and Iraq. Tuzmen and Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu visited the Habur border gate in Silopi, near Turkey's southeastern provincial capital of Sirnak over the weekend. 'Some 4,000 Turkish trucks enter Iraq every day, and the number of visitors using Habur has risen considerably,' Tuzmen said, adding that 'one-fourth of Iraq's highway transportation' originates at the Turkish-Iraqi border crossing.

`Modernization of the gate will begin in April, and will be completed within a year, but we need a second gate with Iraq,' Tuzmen emphasized.

Turkish Truck Driver Killed in Iraq: A truck driver was killed early Saturday by anti-tank missile fire in an attack on a Turkish convoy en route from Kirkuk to Tikrit, weekend papers report. The identity of the driver was not immediately available.

General Bell Due in Turkey on Official Visit: USARMEUR Commander General Burwell Bell will be in Ankara this week as the official guest of Turkey's Land Forces Commander General Yasar Buyukanit, "Sabah" reported on Saturday. The sides will discuss the ISAF in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other issues. The report notes that the US is still waiting for an answer by the Turkish side to a US request to use Incirlik Airbase as a logistical cargo hub for US operations in the region.

EU Warns Turkey to Speed Up Reforms: The European Commission representative in Ankara, Hans Jorg Kretschmer, said over the weekend that Brussels is concerned that Turkey has not made progress since the December summit at which it won a date to begin accession talks. Kretschmer urged the government to accelerate reforms. Kretschmer is on a tour of eastern Turkey with diplomats representing 35 countries.

US Ambassador Stresses Armenian `Genocide': US Ambassador to Yerevan John Evans told a group of Armenian-Americans that the 1915 attacks against Armenians by Ottoman forces constituted the first `genocide' of the last century, "Milliyet" reported on Saturday. Evans said that no US official has denied that a genocide took place, but he also noted the long-standing American-Turkish relationship within NATO.

Book on Turkish-Armenian Dialogue: "Hurriyet" reports on the publication of `Unsilencing the Past,' a book by David Phillips, director of the Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC). The TARC, established in 2001 through the direct involvement of Undersecretary Marc Grossman, work in secret for three years, "Hurriyet" claims.

US Administration Blocks Reopening of Case of Former FBI Employee: The US Attorney General has asked a federal court to drop a lawsuit by Sibel Edmonds, an American woman of Turkish descent who lost her job at the FBI for complaining about irregularities at the FBI, "Hurriyet" reported on Sunday. The Attorney General said a reopening of the case may inflict considerable damage on American national security and foreign policy interests. The front-page story was headlined: `American Deep State Has Silenced Sibel.'

EDITORIAL OPINION: Bush-Putin/Transatlantic Relations

"The Bush Message in Bratislava"
Erdal Safak wrote in the mass appeal "Sabah" (2/28): "The message from President Bush in Bratislava indicates a two-tier vision of democracy developed by the US. The first part of this democratization vision pertained to the former Soviet Union, a process that began during the Reagan era and led to the independence of East European and Central Asian countries. The second phase of the vision covers the countries of the Middle East region. The magnitude and influence of the Broader Middle East Project is undeniable. The most recent tangible evidence came from Egypt, as the Egyptian president announced a package of democratic and constitutional reforms. This process seems to be expanding throughout the Middle East."

"Bush-Putin"
Zafer Atay observed in the economic-political "Dunya" (2/28): "The Russian and American leaders agreed that Iran and North Korea should not have nuclear weapons. However, the two leaders remain at odds on the issue of democracy. Putin kept his distance from Western-style liberty and freedom of expression. Instead, he underlined that Russia is going through a transition period. This is a clear signal that Putin will continue with a `Russian-style' democracy."

"Bush and Europe"
Yasemin Congar wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/28): "Washington has reached some points of agreement with Europe regarding Iraq and Syria. The Bush-Chirac meeting resulted in a significant improvement on the anger that had characterized the US-French relationship on the Iraq issue. But NATO's 2.5 million dollar commitment for the training of Iraqi security forces remains far short of US expectations. . The most important factor enhancing the Bush administration's position on Iraq and Syria comes from the growing voice of the people in the Middle East. The Europeans have already realized the importance of this. Turkey needs to pay attention as well. The January 30

elections in Iraq reflected the Iraqi people's will to define their future. The assassination of Hariri led to the revival of a popular movement demanding a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. Positive developments on Israeli-Palestinian relations have led to a common approach to combat terrorism. These are all positive signs coming from the people on their way toward reform, peace, and democracy in the region."

EDELMAN